LONGSIGHT NEWS

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TRIP TO DINTING

A group of parents and kids from the Hamilton Rd area who had been away for a weekend holiday together decided that they would like to try and run a playscheme for local children during the easter holidays. There had already been talk of opening a playhouse in one of the empty houses in either Duncan Rd or Hamilton Rd and at last one was available, permission was obtained from the local area team and work was set in hand to make the house ready.

It was really marvellous the way so many people from the area came to contribute their skills to getting the place ready. Although the place was structurally sound it had had the pipes ripped out and the wiring needed to be seen to. There was some plastering needed doing as well as installing a water supply, putting glass in the windows, and doing other smaller jobs. No one was paid for their work, the only reward they got was the thought that they were providing somewhere for kids to go during the holidays and in the evenings.

EASTER PLAYSCHEME

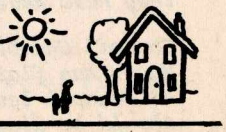
The playscheme for kids in the Hamilton Rd area was a great success. Many willing helpers combined their efforts to make the holiday for many local children happy and interesting. At the playhouse it was quite amusing to watch many budding artists of all ages (with some guidance from devoted helpers) painting all kinds of designs, from wallpaper patterns, to ships and flowers. Some of the smaller children showed remarkable talent.

An enjoyable day was spent by a large group of children, under the careful supervision of adults at the Railway Centre, Dinting. There were 2 engines "in steam", Leander and Bahamas and it was quite a thrill for children to climb the footplate and be carried some distance by these relics of an age now past. Many children were seeing a steam engine for the first time. After viewing other exhibits in this remarkable collection of Railway-ania, the children made their way back to the bus. On their way they came across a number of ponies, belonging to a riding school, and after some hesitation and being shown the correct way, they offered the ponies some grass and hay. They were thrilled when the ponies gently took the offerings off their outstretched palms.

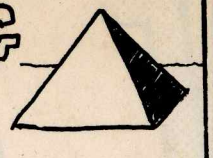
Another day a visit to the baths was organized and later in the week they went on an excursion to the Safari Park at Knowsley Hall. It was thrilling to see the animals almost in the wild.

There were some activities organized for the second week of the holiday and now the playhouse is open every evening. So far on Mondays we have been going roller skating, on Tues and Thurs the playhouse opens 4 - 6. Wed And Fri 4 30 - 9 ALSO SWIMMING SATURDAYS 2pm & TRIPS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES EVERY SUNDAY. There are lots of possibilities for the future. Anyone interested in helping could call at the play house when its open, for a chat.

The Playhouse is in 117 Hamilton Road.



THE AMAZING PYRAMID

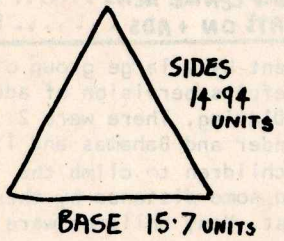


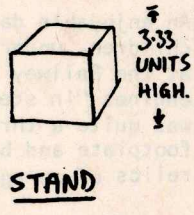
If anybody in your house uses a razor blade to shave with, maybe you could save them a lot of money!

Cut 4 pieces of heavy cardboard into triangles.
The base must be 15.7 units long
The sides must be 14.94 units long
The units could be centimetres, ½" or 1".

Tape these together so that the pyramid stands exactly 10 of the same units high.

The next thing to do is to make a stand 3.33 units high and place it directly under the apex of the pyramid. The apex is the top of the pyramid.
YOU HAVE TO FACE THE POINTS OF THE PYRAMID TO NORTH, SOUTH ETC.
You now place your razor blade flat on the stand so that the sharp edges face east and west.
IT SHOULD BE EXACTLY 10 UNITS HIGH.
You should keep your pyramid away from electrical devices.



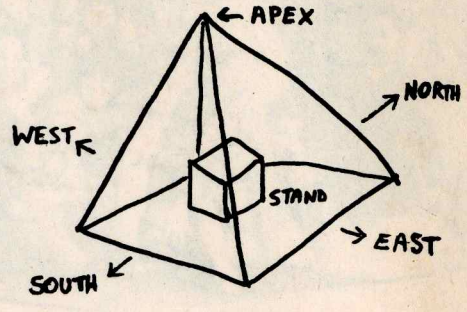


This may sound like a joke, but if you leave your blade in the pyramid when not in use it will stay as good as new for a long time.

The writer of the book I read it in has had the same razor blade for 6 months and he uses it every day.

My blade has lasted me 14 days in the past until the pyramid fell into the sink and became all soggy. I usually need a new blade every 3 days at 8p a time, without a pyramid. I am now making a new pyramid.

The "Cheops Pyramid razor blade sharpener" was registered in 1959 under Czechoslovakian Republic patent No. 91304, and a factory soon began to turn out miniature cardboard byramids. Today they make them in Styrofoam.



If everybody made a pyramid the razor blade companies would be out of business.

These pyramids are an exact scale model of the famous Cheops Pyramid of Egypt.

It maybe magic, it may bemagnetism, but it certainly works and saves me a lot of money.

GLORIOUS METERS CAMPAIGN. ABSENT FRIENDS?

Local Councillors failed to attend a Public Meeting which had been specifically arranged for them by the Longsight Tenants Association in the Longsight Methodist Hall, Stockport Road. The meeting started noisily when the Chairman of the Ardwick Labour Party announced that he was standing in for the Local Councillors who could not attend because of prior engagements. This apology was not accepted by the 200 angry tenants who came to the meeting particularly to ask questions on the clorius meter problem also the 50% increase. The Chairman of the Labour Party went on to say that:
There is no such thing as cheap fuel anywhere in the country but this system of meters is ridiculous. It is the most unsatisfactory system there is. What answer we have got I don't know but the three Area Councillors will back you as far as they can go, the Councillors have hammered away at this but unfortunately, they have never been able to raise it in the Council Chamber because the present Lord Mayor has flatly refused to have it discussed at Council level, it is her opinion that this should be discussed at a Law Level.

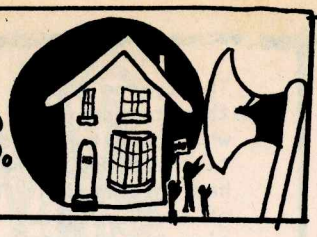
As a result of this meeting members of the Association are campaigning on the Estate to find out how many people would be prepared to donate or raise money towards legal costs, also how many want the meters removed. The Secretary, Mr. Ken Strath stated that already just under 300 people have offered financial support and this is only the start. We have a long way to go before the Estate is covered

PERSONAL OPINION

Dave Shaw, a former secretary of Longsight Tenants Association told Longsight News his personal views on the meters campaign.

"I am not speaking on behalf of the tenants association here, but my own personal view is that when the new Law Centre opens in June we should ask them to take us as their first case. These are innaccurate, unjust devices - don't call them meters, they are devices. They are not British Standards Institute tested. It' my belief we have a just and sound case to take Manchester Corporation to court."

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE NEWS.



The Neighbourhood Centre.

The Neighbourhood Centre at 113 Hamilton Road is a building run by local residents for the benefit of people in the area. All activities including the advice centre are voluntary and independant of other agencies (e.g. Town Hall).

SHOCK NEWS!

A call from the Co-ordinator Mr. Illidge on April 26th gave the Neighbourhood Centreat 113 Hamilton Road a week's un-written notice to vacate the building for demolition.

Although we agreed that the dangerous buildings of the area should be demolished we could see no reason why the Neighbourhood Centre block which is not unsafe should be pulled down until they are ready to put something in its place

The notice was even more of a shock because a few weeks earlier the South Area Consultative Committee of local councillors had decided to try and get another premises for the Neighbourhood Centre activities. A couple of days of visits and letters to everybody in authority that we could think of telling them our objections to being evicted resulted in an extension until the end of May.

Now the Corporation are considering 2 letters from us. One, with the City Architect, is asking that we and the Playhouse be allowed to stay in the houses on Hamilton Road until we have another premises to move to. The other, with the Housing Committee is asking them to provide us with another house in the Slade Lane area so that the many activities in the Neighbourhood Centre can continue.

Activities

The activities which would have had to stop or move without the Neighbourhood Centre include, the advice office, the collection of old clothes and furniture, use of rooms by Longsight News, Birch Housing Co-op, Social Workers groups of kids, Asian Women's Co-operative and other meetings. The Playhouse which many residents worked on to get it into shape for the children for the Easter vacation, would have had to close after only a few weeks.

It seems that Manchester Corporation will decide to give us a building but we have had no definite promises yet. If we get something we hope that there will be a large room available so that groups that need that sort of space can have meetings, luncheon clubs etc. as well as smaller rooms for the advice centre etc. and space for children's activities.

To keep another building going, to repair it and to move will all cost us quite a lot. Luckily we have just received £160 as the proceeds of a discotheque at the West Indian Centre, Carmour Road on 30th April.
Our thanks to the Centre for giving us this benefit, as they are also raising money for a new building.

LONGSIGHT COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

ORGANIZED BY THE LONGSIGHT PUBLIC HALL STEERING COMMITEE.

The above Committee consists of members from each of the different groups active in the new Longsight area. Our aim is to obtain a much-needed Community Centre for our area and the Longsight Public Hall on Stockport Road, next to the library, is the building which we want to use.

The Longsight Community Festival (LCF) aims to give you and your family a chance to have some fun during Whit wee, to learn about what's going on locally, AND to take a look around the Public Hall. If you think that we need a Community Centre in Longsight then please support the Festival and give us your ideas and help to make it work.

Besides the events listed below, and the fund-raising jumble on May 8th, we will be organising games and other activities during the week on the local playing fields.

...PLEASE KEEP THIS PROGRAMME .....WATCH OUT FOR MORE DETAILS.....

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Mon. 31st MAY: Tour of the area with a Street Theatre Show.

Tues. 1st June: Tenants' Association Open Meeting to discuss the need for a Community Centre. PLEASE COME ALONG!
7.30 p.m. Public Hall.

Wed. 2nd June: 2.00 p.m. Joint Concert for the Over 60's in the Public Hall.
7.00 p.m. Children's Concert and Open Night run by the One Parent Family Group.

Thur. 3rd June: 10.30 a.m. Open Meeting to discuss the need for a Playgroup for children under 5. All parents welcome. (Public Hall).
8.00 p.m. Barbecue and songs on the Adventure Playground, Plymouth Grove West.

Fri. 4th JUNE:

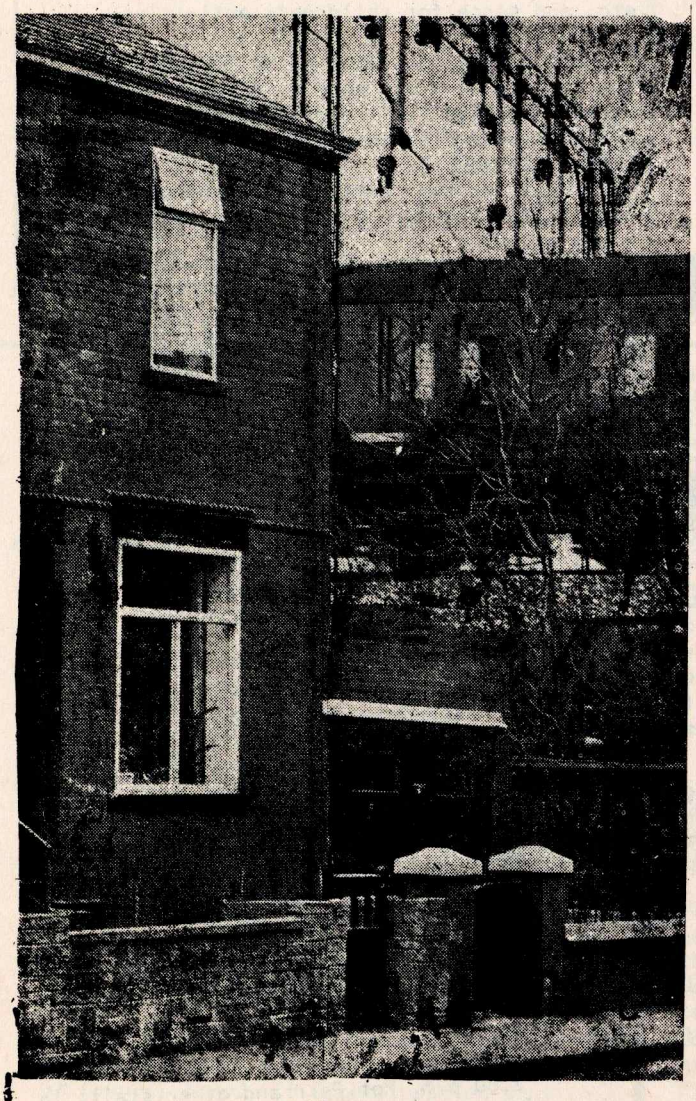
2.00 p.m. Pot Fair and other stalls in the Public Hall.
8.00 p.m. Dance and Social in the Public Hall. LIVE MUSIC. LATE BAR.

SLADE LANE FLY OVER

As one resident said:

"We do not wish to stand in the way of progress But is it progress to destroy one community in order to elaborate a transport system which after all is only serving other communities. We feel that inner Manchester, with its established local identities and tradition is being sacrificed to the transport systems, that the heart of the city is being dissipated and dispersed, and that it is time the planners saw us as communities rather than as rows of shabby houses which they would like to replace by gleaming new estates with social problems

PRIORITY: HOUSES OR TRAINS?



The end house on Woodfold Avenue showing how close it is to the railway embankment. (76.4.281).

Thirty-one houses in North Levenshulme are threatened by the Slade Lane Flyover scheme which Greater Manchester Passenger Executive decided to revive when it found it had insufficient funds for electrification of the Bury line. The Manchester Corporation Planning Committee is to consider the application very soon, possibly this month.

The houses, in Woodfold Avenue, Belvoir Avenue, Hapton Street and Park Grove, are mainly in cul de sacs between Stockport Road and the railway line and, therefore, support a very close community life. Residents, some of whom have lived there for over 40 years are shocked and upset, and while attempting to organise opposition feel that the authorities have given them very little preparation. For example, one resident moved in only nine months ago after being given a fifteen year Corporation mortgage to purchase the property. They also insisted that the purchaser perform £200 worth of repairs to ensure the house lasted for this period. Another family moved into one of the houses only three months ago as a council tenant and has now extensively redecorated it only to hear later of the plans for demolition.

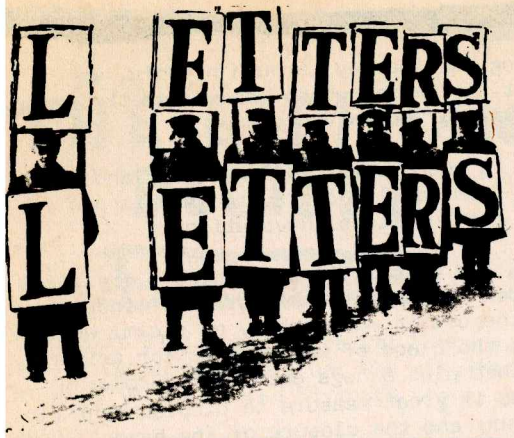
Feeling against the local authorities is strong and opinion is repeatedly given that the Corporation is attempting to "run down" the area in accordance with plans for a future motorway system and therefore finds the railway plans convenient. Certainly plans for realignment of the A6 nearer the railway do exist, and many houses in adjoining streets have been boarded up. Furthermore, the Corporation did attempt 3 years ago to include these 4 streets in a clearance area but this was successfully opposed by the residents.

The residents point out that the planned new railway boundaries will only run through the end house in Woodfold Avenue, and two end houses in Belvoir Avenue. The remaining houses in these streets are to be destroyed for easy access of the construction machinery. Not only this, but only one side each of Woodfold and Belvoir Avenues are to be destroyed leaving the other sides as islands in a waste area. Residents and shop keepers believe that the impact of this destruction (and of the continuous day and night working planned) will eventually destroy this area of Levenshulme and that eventually the corporation will have its section of empty land to use for a roadway when the finance is finally available.

SLADE LANE FLYOVER - END

The scheme for the flyover will entail taking away a section of the playing field adjoining Park Grove and Slade Lane, at present used by the community for recreational purposes.

We can ill afford having facilities such as this taken away, especially at a time when cuts in all directions are being made.



LABOUR CARES ??

Labour cares for people, does it? Greater M/c Transport have decided the rich disabled people working more than "30 hours" weekly will have their bus passes withdrawn. The fact they go to work at all is most commendable.

Its time these municipal hitlers were brought down to earth. Recently a building costing over a quarter of a million pounds was pulled down, and £9,000 is to be spent on trees, and a public speakers corner no one wants. I have never voted Labour and never shall. It seems to me, men like Councillor Labour Roberts, Norman Morris, are deaf to ratepayers wishes, I only wish they would meet me, but political cowards never want to do that. Labour cares, its cutting all services, "Education" in particular gets a big cut. During holidays when poor mothers, yes they are still with us, find their kiddies cannot get school meals, Labour cares of course.

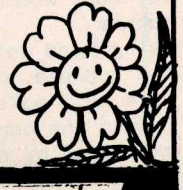
And had the Tories or Liberals done it there would have been a public outcry. As I write I know of several teachers out of work, what a disgrace. Our country needs brains, we have enough brawn. Labours whole set up makes me really sick. Vincent J Wood Manchester 12

Please send your letters to:-

Longsight News

c/o 113 Hamilton Road

Longsight



SHORTSIGHT NEWS

Concil tenants on Supplementary benefit, who get their rent paid by the social security, have not received any money to cover the last rent rise.

The DHSS have "not had time" to work out and pay the extra rent. But they have had the time and money to send a letter to every tenant concerned asking them NOT to waste more of their time by coming down to the office to enquire about it.

Nobody has had the time to write and tell the tenants they needn't pay the increase until it comes through from the social security.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHY?

My husband, Patrick Evans and myself, Brenda Evans, would like to know why? Manchester Housing Department don't want to give us accommodation in the Manchester 13 area, as its very important for our baby Richard who is nearly one month old to be close to the Dental Hospital, as Richard was born with a cleft palate and has a dental plate, which needs to be altered and changed very often, and we will be attending the Dental Hospital every week.

At present our baby is in Pendlebury Hospital, we would like nothing better than to have our son at home, but the conditions we live in, are very bad (it is one of Dewhurst's houses) and we just don't know what to do about it We have tried to explain the situation to the Housing Department that we must have a decent place to live right away not in a few months time or a year.

Today, 12th May 1976 a Health Visitor from Darbyshire House Health Centre came to see us. We asked her what would we do if the ceiling came down on us, she answered, it depends what part of the room you are in ".

Thats the kind of people who are supposed to be helping us.

BRENDA EVANS,
Flat 7,
295 Upper Brook Street,
Chorlton-on-Medlock,
Manchester, 13.

MARRIAGE AND MORTGAGE!

Dear Longsight News,
We at Hamilton Rd Advice Centre have recently been looking into the position of married women in mortgaged property when the husband leaves them and their income is very much reduced.

We have found that there is nearly always a way of making sure that the woman and her family (or a man alone who stops work to look after the children) can stay in the house.

According to their circumstances, Social Security will help with interest payments and arrears, the motgage agreement can be altered. the Corporation have power to take over the morgage or to make the family a tenant in their own house. If there is anybody in this situation who is having trouble we'd like to help them.

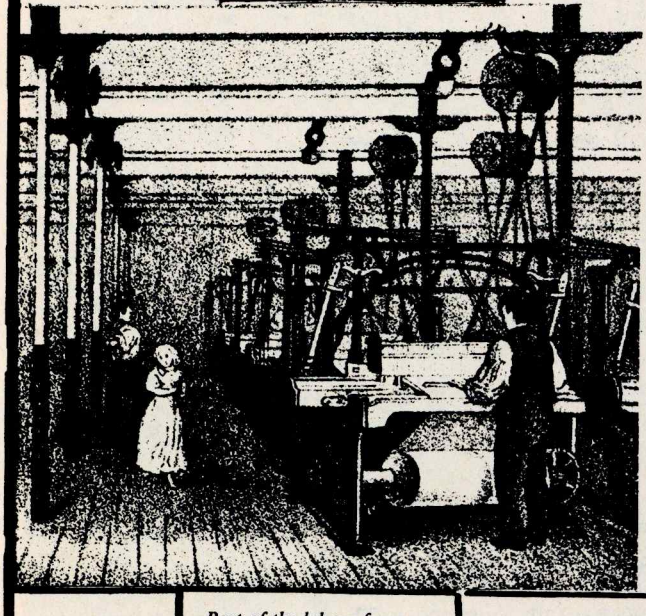
And a message to all wives and husbands where the house is owned under only one name. The other partner may go to the Land Charges Registry and REGISTER THEIR RIGHT OF OCCUPATION. This means the house may not be sold without their consent or a court order

You can go to a solicitor and he or she will do this for a small fee, or free if you have no income. Your husband will only know you have registered it if he tries to sell the house and it could be a blessing later. Do it now.

For more information call at the Advice Office on Hamilton Rd (hours on back page)

MORE History for Longsight

Pay day for the children of the Industrial Revolution in booming Britain.



Part of the labour force in a British cotton mill, around 1840.

Continuing our journey through history, we arrive at the period which was called the Golden Reign of Queen Victoria.

The time is round about 1840 when England was emerging from rural industry to what is now known as the Industrial Revolution.

England's and especially Lancashire's greatness was founded on the intensification of industry, through the use in manufactury of steam, which had taken the place of water power for driving the machines plus a huge amount of surplus labour due in great measure to displacement of farm labour, and the closure of the hand weaving industries.

CHILD LABOUR

The jobless people were foced by sheer necessity to flock to the towns, where they herded in terrible living conditions, of overcrowded and unsanitary hovels.

The exploitation of these unfortunates can be gauged by reports quoted at the time such as follows:-

Children are taken into the mines, and factories as early as the age of four, five and seven.
Indeed the age between eight and nine was the ordinary age at which employment in the mines commenced.
Chis was quoted in the Children's Employment Commission (Mines) in 1842.

The employment of children at this tender age continued until 1860, when it was forbidden to employ children under the age of twelve!
How compassionate Society had become to arrive at this decision.

The children were employed in all aspects of mine working, one of the arduous tasks was hauling skips of coal fastened by a belt and chain around their waists to the skips.
They were not the only persons so exploited, for many women were employed in the same manner.
Being hard work, endured in the warmth of the tunnels, many women hauled the coal in a half naked state.
Indeed the concern over women in the mines, expressed by certain people in parliament, was not over the exploitation of women on physical grounds, but on moral grounds.
They were concerned about the semi nakedness and not the brutal conditions the women had to ensure.

The cotton industry also employed children at an early age. A source of cheap labour was the workhouses where orphans were supplied by the authorities at the same tender age as in the mines. Instances were quoted where children were fastened to the machines so that they could not run away.

Hours of labour were between twelve and thirteen; and when they had finished their toil they had only hovels, and cellars to go home to where they endevoured to regain strength to face the next day's labour.

THE ELEPHANT DECIDED

HISTORY OF LONGSIGHT

Toll Gate close near Longsight Library, was the place where a toll bar was situated, on what is now called Plymouth Grove.

There is a recorded incident that took place there some years ago.
An elephant in charge of a keeper was on its way from Scotland to Belle Vue Zoo. They halted at the gate and a fierce argument arose over the toll to be paid for an elephant.
This went on for some considerable time, and the elephant became restless, and seizing hold of the gate lifted it off its hinges, and then carried it some yards.
This brought the argument to a halt and the toll keeper hastily arrived at a price for the elephant, and soon it was on its way to its destination Belle Vue.

Cringle Fields takes it s name from Cringle Brook, which was originally called Krygell-brook, which means Winding Brook.

Opposite Crowcroft Park, on the corner of Crowcroft Road is an old boundary marking. This shows the division between The Township of Newton which reached towards Kirkmanshulme Lane and the Township of Rusholme.
This boundary mark is on a house due for demolition.
It is hoped that in any future rebuilding this boundary information could be incorporated in the new buildings on historical grounds.

LOCAL PARK.

Crowcroft Park belongs to the Dean and Cannons of Manchester, and the Corporation pays £520 per year rent for the land.

Plaque on new house in Ardwick:
DAVID LLOYD GEORGE
FIRST EARL OF DWYFOR
1863-1945
WAS BORN AT No 5 NEW YORK PLACE WHICH FORMERLY STOOD NEAR THE SITE OF THIS BUILDING.
Future generations observing this plaque would be forgiven for only associating Ll. George with becoming an earl. His part in piloting the Liberal Govt's Old Age Pension Act, a pathetic version of the TUC's proposals for which they had been fighting is not recorded here. This Act came into force on Jan 1st 1909 and applied to people who were 70 years of age and whose income did not exceed £31.10 (old money) per annum. The pension varied between 5s old money per week for persons whose income did not exceed £21 to down to 1s per week old money.

TP.

WHY NOT JOIN THE HOUSING CO-OP?

"We think that next year we, as Manchester's first tenant housing cooperative, will get our first improved house" (from the report to the A G M)

The Birch Housing Coop Ltd is an exciting new venture in the middle of Longsight. 2 years ago a group of people there had the idea of forming a housing association so that they would have improved rented housing available to them. They formed a legal society called Birch Housing Coop Ltd as a society to be run by its members, able to buy, improve and rent out houses and flats to members. This means that the people who live in the houses and pay rent will have no landlord, they themselves are finally responsible as a group.

It has not been easy to get the coop going, people at the town hall and in the government didn't seem to believe that we could do it. Although new laws have been passed to help groups like ours, they hadn't even read them!

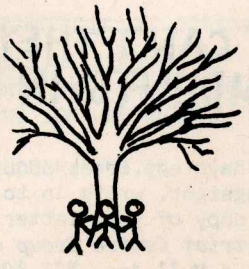
With the help of a friendly architect, surveyor, accountant and lawyer we have now submitted the plans for buying and improving several houses in the streets near Hamilton Rd. We are to get the loans to finance it from the government and will pay them back from the rent, which will be lower than many council houses. The members will meet to decide which of us will get the tenancy to each house as it is ready and who will collect the rents. At our meetings we also discuss what new houses to buy and whether anything can be done about members present housing conditions eg. making a landlord do some repairs.

The members all have connections with the Hamilton Rd area. Some want the coop to buy the house they now live in off the landlord, others are living in flats with children and would like a house, some are single people who want a small flat and some own their house but can't afford improvements so they'll sell to the coop at a low price and pay rent instead of taking a second mortgage.

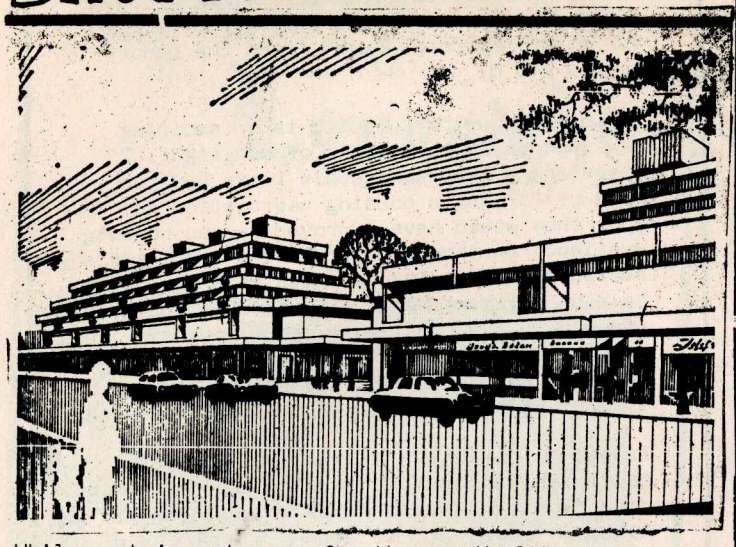
Once a month we have an open meeting when anybody who is interested may come along. So, if you would like to have a house at at fair rent, with no landlord and would be willing to help run the cooperative, come and join us. More information from Maggie at 23 Clitheroe Rd or Kay at 25 Clitheroe Rd.

NB Birch Coop has no connection with Slade Hall/ Councillor Fieldhouse.

THE BIRCH HOUSING CO-OP SYMBOL.



LONGSIGHT SHOPPING CENTRE



While work is under way for the new Health Centre, Library, and social services buildings, the proposed mammoth shopping centre originally planned for the Stockport Rd/Stanley Grove area has been dropped. Instead, the planners are now thinking of a smaller shopping centre with more smaller shops.

The Longsight District Centre Group opposed the original plans and successfully prevented them going through. They demanded a poll to find out what the people in the various parts of Longsight really wanted in the way of shops. They also did their own poll and discovered that while certainly supermarkets have a place, what people are most desperate for is more local shops, so they don't have long walks or excessive bus fares every time they want something from the shops. This applies especially to the elderly and mothers with young children.

There has been a lot of agitation for corner shops on the new estate and there will eventually be TWO FOR THE WHOLE ESTATE!!! (see letter from Town Hall on this page)

Meanwhile the council is not going to do a poll, in spite of its promises and assurances. They will just come up with a smaller plan for a shopping centre and Roy Grainger, the councillor who has done most to get residents views across to the council, has promised to let them know when the new plans are ready. If the plans are still no good, if they fail to provide shops for the outlying parts of Longsight, the residents will be back to square one battling with the council to change the plans

WHY CAN'T THEY CONSULT THE RESIDENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A.D.

If YOU have any ideas about a good shopping plan for Longsight, write in to the Planning Dept & keep a copy of your letter. It might help.
The District Centre Group can be contacted c/o D Shaw, 4 Mull Ave, 273 3003

A LETTER FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

Dear Editor,

Shopping proposals for Longsight.

I refer to your last issue of the "Longsight News" and in particular to the article on page 9 entitled "All Quiet on the Shopping Front".

I am afraid that the information in the article is not quite correct and, for the sake of your readers, I would like to take this opportunity of putting the record straight over the Council's proposals for providing two new corner shops on the Longsight Etate. The City Council approved a proposal to build a corner shop and four houses on a plot of land at the end of South Street in July 1975; the design work for this scheme is now well underway and it is possible that the building will begin in the Autumn with a completion date in the Spring of 1977. Shakespeare Walk corner shop, mentioned in the first paragraph of your article, was accepted by the City Council in principle in March this year and it is possible that a start on this building will be made in the late Summer of next year. I am afraid that your article indicates that this shop is now open - which is not the case - and I would be most grateful if you could publish a correction in your next issue to put the matter right.

Should any queries arise, please do not hesitate to contact my assistant, Mr. Wolstenholme, at 236 3377, extension 2472 who will be pleased to help you.

Yours faithfully,

City Planning Officer.

SHOPS FOR ALL - BEFORE DISTRICT CENTRE

A spokesperson for the District Centre Group told Longsight News: *As far as we are concerned they have not come up with the shops they promised us. AT LEAST ONE SHOP FOR EVERY 5 MINUTES WALKING FOR AN OLD PERSON SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE ANY CENTRE GOES THROUGH.*

I have spoken to many many people on the estate. Most are in favour of some kind of centre, because of chepness and convenience. Especially those with cars, and the younger ones. But older people cannot manage like this. Shops should be provided in all the different areas where they are needed. Shops that have been demo-ished should be replaced.

Near High St baths - they PROMISED to repace the row of shops they demolished. The Planning just make a lot of pie in the sky promises, and never do anything. We discussed the idea of turning garages on the new estate into shops. A good idea, they could be rented out at £10 a week. But its just pie in the sky.

CHILDRENS PAGE

The children's page is a new idea for Longsight News.
We would like any children in the area to write poems, stories, puzzles, crosswords, jokes, hobbies, magic tricks, or anything else for this page.
If you have anything, please see Mike McGuinn at 143 Hamilton Road, or Margaret in the Play House.

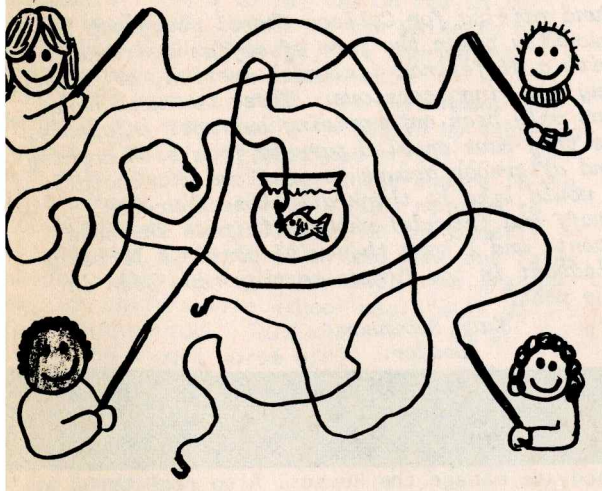
TONGUE TWISTERS

SEVEN SEASICK SAILORS
SAILED ON A SLEEK STRAIGHT SHIP

SEA SHELL SHAPED

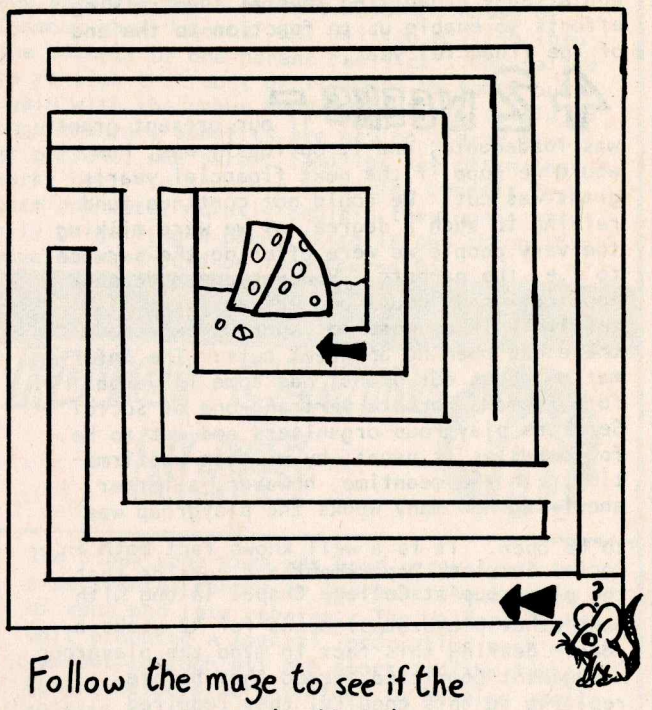
FISH AND CHIP SHOPS

Try to say these tongue twisters 5 times quickly.
If you know any please send them in.

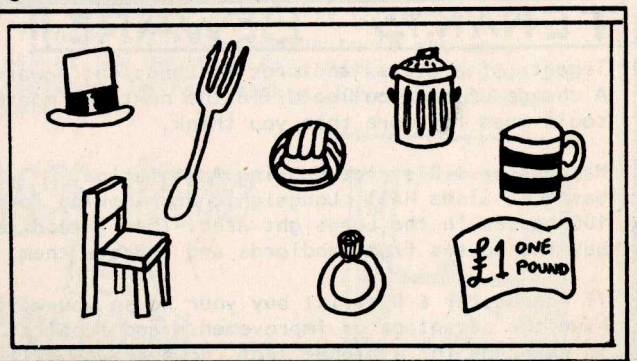


FIND OUT WHICH PERSON CATCHES THE FISH BY FOLLOWING THE FISHING LINES.

MOUSEY MAZE.



Follow the maze to see if the mouse can get to the cheese.



TAKE A LOOK AT THESE OBJECTS FOR ONE MINUTE AND THEN CLOSE THE PAGE. THEN SEE IF YOU CAN REMEMBER THEM ALL.

A Photo from the DINTING trip.

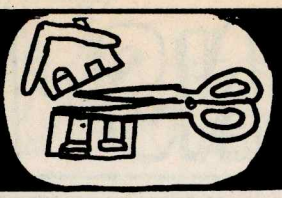
THANKS TO D.R.+T.P.

Q. A FATHER AND SON WERE WALKING ACROSS THE ROAD, WHEN A LORRY CRASHED INTO THEM. THE FATHER WAS KILLED BUT THE SON WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL.
ON SEEING THE BOY THE DOCTOR STARTED CRYING "THAT'S MY SON".

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

A. The Doctor was the boys MOTHER.

PLAYGROUP CUTS!



CUT BACKS.

We've all heard the term cut backs in public spending' in recent months and here at College Chapel we began wondering quite early in the year (as I am sure other public spenders did), what these cut backs would mean to us.

Our playgroup, grant aided by Social Services was already having some financial difficulty and already organising several fund raising efforts to enable us to function to the end of the financial year.

42 WEEKS -

If our present grant was inadequate, and it obviously was, how would we cope if the next financial year's grant was cut. We could not continue fund raising to such a degree, as we were milking the very people we were offering the service to i.e. the parents. However, we made our application as usual and waited for the results. These were not what we expected, there had been no apparent cuts. The information about our grant, had come in verbal form from Ms Barbara Bertrand one of Social Services playgroup organisers and was to be followed, as is usual, by written confirmation. In the meantime, however, a letter enquiring how many weeks the playgroup was to be open. It is a well known fact both in Social Services Department and outside that the playgroup at College Chapel (along with many other playgroups) opens for 42 weeks a year. Bearing this fact in mind the playgroup management committee agreed that before replying to this enquiry, they required further information about why the enquiry had been made.

- OR 48 WEEKS ??

Ms. Bertrand was invited to a committee meeting to clarify this and several other points appertaining to the grant. On the evening of this particular meeting, a letter was pushed through the Secretary's door. The letter was from Ms. Bertrand apologising for the fact that she would not be able to attend the meeting, but giving no reason. Along with this letter, was another letter stating what our grant would be if we were going to run for 48 weeks. If we were not going to run for 48 weeks, then we should notify Social Services Department immediately. The playgroup committee were justifiably annoyed by Ms. Bertrands behaviour and have written a letter to Mr. Hilditch, (Director of S.S.) saying as much and asking for another meeting.

No reply yet!

A reply has not yet been received but when it has been and a meeting is arranged, one hopes the outcome is not going to be what it appears to be, looking at the information so far.

Fund raising for College Chapel playgroup has recently taken the form of coffee evenings with a difference i.e. mock auction, bring and buy and bingo sessions. These ventures have not only been enterprising but most enjoyable, as they have enabled parents from both morning and afternoon groups to meet and mix socially I would like to thank all those (parents, staff and friends) who participate in these events and I hope they will continue to be as pleasant in the future as they have been in the past.

Kath Robinson
Leader.

TENANTS BEWARE!!

Tenants of private landlords in Longsight beware! A change of rent collector in the next few months could mean far more than you think.

Manchester & District Housing Association, based at Slade Hall, Longsight, are looking for 100 houses in the Longsight area. They intend to buy the houses from landlords and improve them.

If Manchester & District buy your house you will have the advantage of improvements and repairs in exchange for a higher rent. However you will unknowingly also be trading in all your security of tenure granted under the Rent Acts as Housing Associations are exempt from these laws (which require landlords to give good reasons for any eviction and allow the judges to permit tenants to stay on even if there is a Notice to Quit)

Manchester & District can afford to buy the houses because they have been quaranteed loans for the work by the Housing Corporation (a govt. agency set up to help Housing Associations). The money is to be used to pay for the houses, to pay an architect to draw up plans, to pay builders for improving the houses and to pay some body to manage the houses. Also registered at Slade Hall, home of councillor Fieldhouse, are Fieldhouse & Ross Builders Ltd, and Slade Prperty Management Ltd. It will be interesting to see how much of the work goes to these firms which are of course quite entitled to make a profit although the Housing Association itself cannot.

CONT'

Slade Property Management already have a reputation as strict landlords, clamping down very quickly on arrears.

Under Labour control M/c Corporation stopped giving loans to Fieldhouses numerous Housing Associations and has given its money to charitable Housing Associations working in stress areas. Family Housing Association, Mosscare and Anchor (Help the Aged) have been the main beneficiaries. Now they say they are also encouraging tenants cooperatives, where the tenants themselves, and not the local big-wigs, form the controlling management committee. Most of the money for Housing Associations, however, is now allocated by the Housing Corporation over which Manchester has little control. And guess what, Mr Madge, big man in the Housing Corporation is a personal friend of Mr Fieldhouse.

THE CON OF THE CHILD INTERIM BENEFIT.

A few months ago all the unsupported single parents living on supplementary benefit got a letter from Clarence Road DHSS saying they should apply for the new Child Interim Benefit of £1.50 a week. 'Sounds ok' Further on the letter mentioned that, of course this £1.50 would then be deducted from your allowance.

WHAT IS THIS CHILD INTERIM BENEFIT, AND WHO BENEFITS?

No-one on Supplementary Bebefit.
No-one on other State Benefits.

These parents are still expected to manage on current S. rates e.g. £3.10 a week to feed, clothe, and provide for a child under 5. No extra £1.50 for these.
Parents working and paying the standard rate of tax will have to pay tax on the Child Interim Benefit, reducing the value to 62½p. A member of Gingerbread, the one-parent family organisation commented:-
"Just who benefits from this government handout and take-back? It should be labelled as Mrs. Castle's biggest con trick.... I am not only taxed on it but the clawback is put into effect, thus £1.50 is much reduced to not much more than 50p. Since the benefit is assumed to be £1.50 by the rent and rates people - they'll take the rest. And presumably my child's free school meals will go for a burton too. This means I'll be at least 75p a week worse off."

Only about 8% of One Parent Families will get the full £1.50 - those not earning enough to pay tax and not claiming other state benefits.

Even these people however may find it vanishes into nothing. The extra £1.50 will automatically reduce benefit from any Family Income Supplement, rent or rates rebates that they receive. The cost of the whole scheme is estimated to be £20m but the government will get £10m straight back in extra tax. When you take into account other money they will get back through reduced benefits they probably won't be paying out much more that £5m.

GIVING WITH ONE HAND AND TAKING WITH THE OTHER.

The letter from the DHSS looks like pure spite, but the government is not just being spiteful. It is using this so-called benefit to get credit for itself, and then

CONT

HEALEY GIVETH, AND HEALEY TAKETH AWAY.

CONT

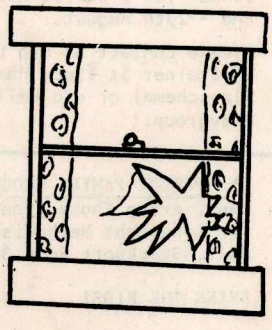
not handing it out. Dennis Healey said last year, "Although we cannot introduce the full child benefit scheme before 1977 we can take earlier action to help one group of families - one parent families. We therefore propose to introduce an interim benefit which will extend family allowances at the new rate of £1.50 a week to the first child of one parent families."

And Barbara Castle proudly told the House of Commons that "another £21 million will go into the pockets of one parent families". She failed to mention that most of it would be taken out again with the other hand. Whilst all people on supplementary benefits are having a hard time at present, one parent families are often the worst hit. To announce a special benefit for them and later quietly explain they won't actually be getting a penny extra is one thing this government should be remembered for.

ADVICE CENTRE NEWS

The Slade Lane area was used recently in an experimental scheme to increase the take up of rent and rate rebates. The Welfare Rights Unit produced a special information pack which was put through all the doors and the Advice Centre helpers were trained in helping people to fill in the forms. The Welfare Rights Unit say that 100's more people all over Manchester could receive these rebates but they just don't apply. If you want to know if there's any chance you could get one. Ask at the Hamilton Road Advice Centre or Jim Fletcher, Welfare Rights, Levenshulme Town Hall.

WHO PAYS FOR BROKEN WINDOWS?!



Tenants of Greenwood House are told that they have to pay the cost of replacing windows broken by vandals. We have finally established that that is not true. If you report a breakage to the police the Corporation will then foot the bill for the repair.

— ADVERTISEMENTS —

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S WANTED?

ADVERT

Volunteers required to help run playscheme during the month of August.

Contact: Lynn Wood,
84 Stainer Street,
Longsight.

ANSON TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th June 8.00 p.m.
Latter Day Saints Church Hall, Beresford Road.

SOCIAL EVENING

Music and Dancing
Raffle
Bring and Buy Sale
Bingo

All Tenants and Residents Welcome

LONGSIGHT NEWS MEETINGS

All Welcome

Bring along your ideas for the paper.

Thursday June 17th
A Get-Together in the Coach and Horses, Stockport Road, 8 o'clock onwards.

Thursday July 22
113 Hamilton Rd 8.30 onwards.

PLAYSCHEME in August

We are trying to get St.Agnes school for a playscheme from 2nd - 27th August.

Please contact us c/o Lynn Wood, 84 Stainer St (Sec, Hamilton Rd Playscheme) or c/o College Chapel Playgroup.

ONE-PARENT FAMILY GROUP
meets every Thurs evening at the Longsight Methodist Church Hall, Stockport Rd 6.30 to 8.30

BRING THE KIDS!

People you could contact if you're interested in the group: Pam Parry, 1 Sandridge Walk, Margaret Fraser, 1 Royds Close, Connie Strongithawm, 3 Elsdon Rd

Other helpers who can mind the kids Thurs nights, do babysitting, very welcome!

PLAYHOUSE

117 HAMILTON RD

FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. YOU

CAN DO PAINTING, MODELLING, WOODWORK, COOKING, DRESSING UP, IN FACT WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF.
OPEN TUES & THURS 4 - 6
WED & FRI ~~4.30 - 9.00~~

OPPORTUNITY For Asian Women to learn English Language at College Chapel building, corner of Hamilton Rd And Dickenson Rd. Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 12 noon. Entirely free of charge. Why not take advantage of this golden opportunity?
Ms M Puri (community worker) Longsight Moss Side Community Project

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IT'S OUR EXPRESS WISH
TO BRING
THE NEWS :-

LONGSIGHT NEWS
WEST INDIAN WORLD
CARIBBEAN WKY. POST
JAMAICA WKY. GLEANER
BLACK MUSIC
BLUES AND SOUL
BLACK ECHOES
DAILY JANG (in Urdu)

KEEP WITH THE TIMES
AT
HENRY'S
NEWSAGENTS, TOBACCONIST,
SWEETS ETC
43 SLADE LANE LONGSIGHT M/C13

PERSIL TOPS
Please collect Persil and Persil automatic packet tops. Playgroups should cash them in for toys from Education Supplies after June 1st. Take them to your nearest playgroup or to the Neighbourhood Centre.

AFTERNOON NURSERY
at
COLLEGE CHAPEL
HAMILTON RD
FOR CHILDREN FROM 2½ to 5
1.15pm - 3.15pm
12 PENCE ONLY - 12 PENCE ONLY

ADVERTS:-

ADVERTISING IS FREE!

IF YOU HAVE A ROOM TO LET OR KITTENS TO GIVE AWAY, OLD PIANOS, ARMCHAIRS, NEED A BABYSITTER, WOULD LIKE TO FORM GROUPS, ETC. CONTACT THE LONGSIGHT NEWS IT WORKS MUCH BETTER THAN SHOP WINDOWS, AND IT'S FREE

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Fight the Attack on COUNCIL HOUSING

SPECIAL ACTION REPORT by COMMUNITY ACTION

who's behind the attack, subsidies - where the money really goes, co-ops, community facilities, housing market, design and construction, rents, tenants campaigns, the struggle ahead.

in issues 24,25 and 26.
18p + 9p postage each or subscription (6 issues) costs £1.20.
Community Action, P.O.Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

113 HAMILTON ROAD

ADVICE OFFICE - OPEN

MONDAY 10AM - 730PM
THURS 2PM - 4PM

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